

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed October 4, 2004. Claims 1-6, 11-31, and 33-35 have been canceled and claim 32 has been amended. The cited art not relied upon is not pertinent to the patentability of this case. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-10 are currently allowable. Applicant thanks Examiner for recognition of patentable subject matter.

Claim Objections

Claim 32 is currently objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks Examiner for recognition of patentable subject matter, and has amended claim 32 accordingly. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 is now allowable. Consequently, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 11-15, 17-18, 22-29 and 35 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,781,874 ("Adam")

Claims 1, 11-15, 17-18, 22-29 and 35 have been canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-6 and 19 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,781,874 ("Adam") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,485,468 ("Slana").

Claims 2-6 and 19 have been canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 20-21, 30-31 and 33-34 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,781,874 ("Adam") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,667 ("Caldara").

Claims 16, 20-21, 30-31 and 33-34 have been canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 7-10 and 32. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

An extension of 1 (one) month is requested and a Notification of Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 with the appropriate fee is enclosed herewith.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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